

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A data search apparatus for conducting a search of data which includes binary data and meta-data, comprising:

a database in which the data to be searched is registered;

search means for conducting a search of the data based on a set search condition and the meta-data contained in each item of the data registered in said database; and

matching means for matching actually existing data in said database to the data registered in said database while said search means is conducting a search.

2. A data search apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the meta-data is described in a data description language.

3. A data search apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the data description language is one of XML, SGML, and HTML.

4. A data search apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the meta-data is attached after the binary data.

5. A data search apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the binary data is one of still image data, moving picture data, and audio data.

6. A data search apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said search means comprises:

list display means for selecting a predetermined number of data from the data registered in said database, and for displaying a list of information corresponding to the selected data;

meta-data display means for displaying the meta-data contained in the data selected from the list;

setting means for setting the search condition from the meta-data displayed by said meta-data display means; and

execution means for conducting a search of the data registered in said database based on the search condition set by said setting means, and

wherein said matching means prohibits said list display means from displaying information corresponding to data which does not actually exist in said database, and deletes the registration of said data from said list display means.

7. A data search apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said list display means displays a list of a search result obtained by the search by said execution means.

13. A data search method for conducting a search of

data which includes binary data and meta-data, comprising:

a searching step of conducting a search of the data based on a set search condition and the meta-data contained in each item of the data registered in a database; and

a matching step of matching actually existing data in said database to the data registered in said database during the execution of said searching step.

14. A data search method according to claim 13, wherein the meta-data is described in a data description language.

15. A data search method according to claim 14, wherein the data description language is one of XML, SGML, and HTML.

16. A data search method according to any one of claims 13 to 15, wherein the meta-data is attached after the binary data.

17. A data search method according to claim 13, wherein the binary data is one of still image data, moving picture data, and audio data.

18. A data search method according to claim 13,

wherein said searching step comprises:

a list display step of selecting a predetermined number of data from the data registered in said database, and of displaying a list of information corresponding to the selected data;

a meta-data display step of displaying the meta-data contained in the data selected from the list; and

a setting step of setting the search condition from the meta-data displayed in said meta-data display step; and

an execution step of conducting a search of the data registered in said database based on the search condition set in said setting step, and

wherein said matching step prohibits said list display step from displaying information corresponding to data which does not actually exist in said database, and deletes the registration of said data.

19. A data search method according to claim 18, wherein said list display step displays a list of a search result obtained by the search by said execution step.

20. A data search method according to claim 18, wherein said list display step displays a list of thumbnails corresponding to the data to be searched.

21. A data search method according to claim 18, wherein said list display step displays a list of file names corresponding to the data to be searched.

22. A data search method according to claim 18, wherein said setting step sets the search condition by directly inputting a keyword.

23. A data search method according to claim 18, wherein said search step also conducts a search of data which is stored in a predetermined logical area and which is not registered in said database, and said matching step additionally registers the data in said database.

24. A data search method according to claim 23, wherein the additional registration of the data by said matching step is performed based on the meta-data attached to the data.

25. A storage medium for storing a control program to be executed by a computer, said control program comprising:

a searching step of conducting a search of the data based on a set search condition and the meta-data contained in each item of the data registered in a database; and

a matching step of matching actually existing data in

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1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	